

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078897
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE: EDSMITH:RAH
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING
H:RPUGH
SCS:MSIMONSON

-----081932Z 124057 /43

R 081404Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS STATE 078897

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CONS, TU

SUBJECT: RESTRICTIONS ON RIGHT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS TO
INHERIT ESTATES OF DECEDENTS IN TURKEY

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM JACK ROBERTSON, A CONSTITUENT
OF CONGRESSMAN MCCLOSKEY WAS REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
REPLY.

QTE I AM WRITING RE OBTAINING BLOCKED FUNDS IN TURKEY
INHERITED BY AMERICAN CITIZENS. I REPRESENT TWO YOUNG MEN
WHO INHERITED PART OF THEIR FATHER'S ESTATE. AT DISTRI-
BUTION THEIR FUNDS WILL BE PLACED IN A BLOCKED ACCOUNT IN
TURKEY.

I AM ADVISED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THERE IS NO
RECIPROCAL TREATY RIGHTS TO RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE FROM
TURKEY.

THE DECREE NO. 17 ATTACHED IS THE TURKEY DECREE OF BLOCKED
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FUNDS. I AM ADVISED THAT UNDER PARAGRAPH 11, IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE TO SELL, AT NO MORE THAN FIFTY CENTS ON A DOLLAR,
THE BLOCKED FUNDS TO AN AMERICAN COMPANY WHICH MAY BE
INVESTING MONEY IN TURKEY (SUCH AS A HOTEL COMPANY LIKE
HILTON THAT WOULD BUILD A HOTEL, BUY OUR CLIENTS' BLOCKED

FUNDS AT A SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT AND GET AN ASSIGNMENT AND

RELEASE OF THE BLOCKED FUNDS).

IN THE CASE ABOUT WHICH I AM WRITING, IT IS A TURKISH DECEDENT AND U.S. BENEFICIARIES. I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY MORE CASES IN WHICH THE DECEDENT IS AMERICAN AND THE BENEFICIARIES ARE TURKISH. IF SO, IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT OUR GOVERNMENT HAS SOME BARGAINING POWER. IN SHORT, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME ACTION BY OUR GOVERNMENT TO LIFT THE BLOCKING RESTRICTION ON INHERITANCE BY AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM DECEDENTS' ESTATES IN TURKEY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE SOON NEGOTIATING WITH TURKEY REGARDING MUTUAL PROBLEMS, AND I WOULD LIKE THE RIGHT TO FREE FLOW OF INHERITANCE TO BE INCLUDED.

IT WILL BE NOTED IN THE ENCLOSED DECREE UNDER PARAGRAPH 10 THAT "APPLICATIONS IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES..." CAN BE CONSIDERED.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR DIRECTING THIS LETTER TO THE AGENCIES INVOLVED AND APPRECIATE THE ASSISTANCE OF YOUR OFFICE. UNQTE

2. THE DEPARTMENT IS SENDING AN INTERIM REPLY STATING THAT THE US-TURKISH DCA WAS SIGNED IN MARCH 1976 AND THAT THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT RELATING TO THE TYPE OF PROBLEM RAISED. WE STATED THAT OUR INFORMATION PARALLELED THAT GIVEN IN MR. ROBERTSON'S LETTER BUT WERE ASKING THE EMBASSY FOR AN UPDATE ON THE SITUATION.

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Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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